

Meeting Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors – Envision Education
Thursday, June 4, 2020

The California Governor's Executive Order Number N-29-20 has suspended some provisions in the Brown Act and allows meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic to occur entirely telephonically.

I. Preliminary

1. Call to Order
 - Board Chair Mark Daoust called the meeting to order at 4:20pm.
2. Report out from Closed Session: None
3. Roll Call
 - Attendees: Keysha Bailey, Kathi Burke, Mark Daoust, Larry Hancock, Gay Hoagland, Kaleb Lawson, Bob Lenz, Susan Portugal, Michelle Seijas, Rhonnel Sotelo, Tara Thomas, Gia Truong, Rob Vassel, Mark Yowe
 - Absent: Akil Hollis
 - Others Present: Sarah Chostner, Janeen Jackson, Laura Robell, Sele Nadel-Hayes, Justin Wells, Javier Cabra-Walteros
4. Adopt the Agenda
 - Motion: Mark Yowe
 - Second: Bob Lenz
 - Approved by voice vote: 14 Yes 0 No

II. Comments – Chair & CEO

- Mark Daoust spoke on the unsettling events of the past couple of weeks. This has been a year of many challenges. Mark personally came into this meeting with a heavy heart with all we have been facing but also with more resolve on the importance of what we are doing. He hopes the entire board emerges with strengthened feelings of resolve and purpose.
- Gia Truong named that while the world is outraged over the racism in our society, we need to acknowledge the racism in the education system and the importance of Envision's anti-racist stance. The pandemic gives us opportunities to restructure our systems to truly be anti-racist and pro-Black.
- Gia pivoted to lift and celebrate two staff members. Gia and Rhonnel Sotelo gave accolades and a goodbye tribute to Laura Robell. Gia and Bob Lenz gave a goodbye and thank you to Janeen Jackson.
- Gia introduced Javier Cabra-Walteros to the board. She gave his credentials and an overview of why he is a right fit for Envision in the CAO position. Michelle Seijas also spoke on how Javier is a great fit for Envision and at this particular time.
- Javier thanked Michelle and Gia and expressed his excitement in joining the organization and meeting all of the members of the board.

III. Public Comments and Announcements: None

V. Consent Agenda

Ratification of Board Meeting Minutes: April 9, 2020

Approval of LCAP COVID-19 Operations Written Report for Envision Academy, City Arts and Tech, and Impact Academy

- Motion: Tara Thomas
- Second: Larry Hancock
- Approved by voice vote: 14 Yes 0 No

VI. Governance

- Susan detailed the proposal to amend the Envision Education Board Bylaws by adding the Honorary Director role.
- Kathi Burke agreed that adding an Honorary Director position is a great idea as she served in that role at Mills College.
- Susan thanked Kathi for her guidance in proposing the Honorary Director position.

Ratification of change to Envision Education's Bylaws to include Honorary Directors

- Motion: Kathi Burke
- Second: Tara Thomas
- Approved by voice vote: 14 Yes 0 No

Approval of Gay Hoagland as an Honorary Director

- Motion: Mark Yowe
- Second: Kathi Burke
- Approved by voice vote: 13 Yes 0 No

Approval of Susan Portugal, Larry Hancock, Akil Hollis for a second 3-year term starting July 1, 2020

- Motion: Gay Hoagland
- Second: Rob Vassel
- Approved by voice vote: 12 Yes 0 No

Approval of Bob Lenz for a third 3-year term starting July 1, 2020

- Motion: Rhonnel Sotelo
- Second: Gay Hoagland
- Approved by voice vote: 13 Yes 0 No

VII. Strategic Plan

- Kathi Burke thanked Sarah for leading and supporting the board through the process of creating a strategic plan and also thanked the members of the board who worked on the strategic plan process.
- Kathi noted that the strategic plan really focuses on Envision's ambition to become an exemplar network of schools for equity and excellence.
- Sarah noted that hearing the student, staff, and parent voices was postponed due to the pandemic and will be incorporated as we develop implementation plans.
- Sarah shared how Envision is seizing the opportunity to already put the Strategic Plan into action. She then opened the discussion to questions or reflections.
- Rhonnel asked how the budget and Strategic Plan are connected.
- Sarah clarified that the budget reflects the Strategic Plan in that any cuts in the budget were not on the education team and were items that would not directly impact the plan.
- Gia added that Envision is in the process of revising the Graduate Profile. Staff and school teams have worked on the revision.
- Gay expressed her excitement around the priorities of the Strategic Plan and keen interest in seeing how they will be put into action.

Approval of Envision Education's Strategic Plan

- Motion: Kathi Burke
 - Second: Rob Vassel
 - Approved by voice vote: 14 Yes 0 No
- After the vote was cast Mark Daoust thanked the board for their input and remarked that each board member participated somewhere in the process of creating the final strategic plan.
 - Rhonnel asked about the follow-up steps to implement actions and Sarah volunteered to forward a public version of the Strategic Plan to Rhonnel and the rest of the board as soon as possible.

VIII. ELP Update

- Justin opened with the New York Times article about the University of California system dropping ACT and SAT as admissions criteria and how this change would impact ELP's work.
- Justin detailed some challenges the ELP team is facing.
- Gay asked if school districts understand how critical the work ELP is doing to assessment? Justin spoke of how his current client base is aware of the importance of assessment and are renewing their contracts.
- ELP is working on becoming more visible, to gain more clients, especially school districts, and to be seen as a thought leader in the space of the importance of assessment.
- Bob asked how Justin and ELP are engaging with Linda Darling Hammond and Justin detailed the ongoing and strengthening relationship with LPI.

IX. Schools Update

- Laura reminded the Board that usually at this time she would normally be asking the Board to approve a full LCAP plan, but because of COVID-19 we approved a COVID-19 Operations Written Report. The Board will be asked to approve a full LCAP plan before December 2020.
- Envision students are currently performing modified defenses or Presentations of Learning. Justin and Alcine Mumby, ELP coach, helped our school leaders create a focus of learning which incorporates a flexibility for each student.
- Laura turned to the social emotional aspect of learning, acknowledging the large amount of trauma happening now and that we will need to increase support in the fall.
- Laura showcased the ways each school is using social media to engage students and families and for fundraising for supplies and financial support for families.
- Laura detailed the 4-year college acceptance rates for each school for 2020. The numbers are not final, since acceptance dates were postponed.
- Laura shared the online graduation information for each of the schools.
- Laura detailed how Envision is planning for the next school year. Specifically, with a question of how do we build community with new students if instruction is largely virtual.
- The Board expressed how they were amazed how Envision has so quickly taken to online learning.
- The Board asked what is the estimated percent of learning that will be lost in the fall due to virtual classes and the ability of the students to stick with online learning. Laura detailed that at the highest point there was a 92% engagement rate and that we, like the trends that most systems are seeing, are losing some students along the way toward the end of the year.
- This is a national emergency that the field of education will need to think about.
- Teachers are learning that it takes much longer to get through content online. This makes us rethink what is most essential.
- Gia shared that some of our students have become essential workers for their family so they are not available during the day and then exhausted at night. We will have to be more expansive in our thinking about how students can engage in learning.

X: Development Update

- Sarah celebrated that Envision exceeded its fundraising goal and that Evening with Envision was a success despite the pandemic.
- Sarah asked for ideas for an alternative to Evening with Envision since large gatherings will not happen for a while.
- The board and Sarah engaged in a discussion of ideas for fundraising to replace the popular Evening with Envision live event.

X. Finance Update

- Sele shared an update on the process and timeline for developing the FY2021 budget, taking into account the impact of COVID-19 and alignment with the strategic plan.
- Sele shared an overview of the current draft of the FY2021 budget including revenue and expense reductions between FY2020 and FY2021.
- Sele shared that given the uncertainty of state revenues, Envision's board will review and consider the final budget for approval at a special board meeting in late June.
- Sele invited anyone to reach out to her with questions before the special meeting.

XI: Closed Session Personnel (G.C. 54957)

- Report Out from Closed Session: None

XII: Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.